

CITY NEWS

Newark youth make history



Newark's youngest champions were honored for earning a ticket to the National Championship rounds in Orlando, Florida.

NEWARK—Newark's youngest athletes, the North Ward Scorpions, were honored for their outstanding season at a rally on Monday, Dec. 17, on the steps of Newark City Hall.

After a 14-0 season, the North Ward Scorpions became the first Newark Pop Warner football team ever to advance to a national championship earlier this month.

The team of 9- to 14-year-olds won their first game in the national quarter-finals, held in Orlando, Fla., but fell in the semi-finals, 36-32.

Despite this latter ending, the city honored these remarkable young athletes and their advisors, coaches, and cheerleaders, for their dedication, team spirit, great courage, and 15-1 season. The children

received certificates honoring their great season and hopes of goodies.

"The North Ward Scorpions have shown the nation that Newark's youth is a force to be reckoned with," said Mayor Sharpe James. "The Scorpions showed heart, determination, courage, intelligence, and dedication. They may not have won the national championship, but they

are true champions in every sense of the word - and in our hearts."

The Scorpions consist of 20 players, 15 cheerleaders, and nine adult coaches and advisors. All children are North Ward residents. The Scorpions were the first team in the history of the 15-year-old Newark Pop Warner program to advance to a national tournament.

Supreme Court could allow open season on minority youth

By Toure Muhammad

It will be "open season on Black and Hispanic youth in New York and 30 other states if the U.S. Supreme Court upholds Chicago's Anti-Gang Loitering Ordinance," said Doris Bird, the mid-west president of the National Black Police Association. "It was intended for one use, but it won't be implemented for that use. It will be innocent men and women will be affected."

Illinois courts have already struck down the bill, saying it is "unconstitutional" and "smacked of a police state." But, Chicago Mayor Richard Daley has appealed the two lower-court decisions hoping to convince the U.S. Supreme Court to uphold the bill, which gives the police the right to arrest people if they are congregating on the street for "no apparent reason."

After deliberations, the Supreme Court seemed to also view the ordinance as a violation of constitutional rights. According to media reports, Justice David Souter said that the "no apparent reason" aspect of the ordinance contains "a silent assumption that some activity is worthy and some is not." A Supreme Court ruling is expected by July 1999.

The decision will have national impact.

"If the Supreme Court upholds it, then a lot of cities and states will probably uphold it," said William Spain, spokesman for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

Surprisingly, only 66 cases led to a conviction, said Spain. Many of those convicted were not gang members or drug dealers, he added.

Thirty-one states, the Clinton administration and some congressmen have already filed friend of the court briefs on behalf of Chicago including Connecticut, Delaware, North and South Carolina, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

Those who filed friends of the court briefs on behalf of the ACLU include Rep. Jesse Jackson, Jr., the National Black Police Association, National Hispanic Law Enforcement Association, Black Leadership Forum and Chicago Alliance of Neighborhoods.

Volunteer embodies Kwanzaa principles in lifesaving efforts

MINNEAPOLIS - When Duane H. Livingston's granddaughter, Jasmine, was diagnosed with a rare blood disease and needed a marrow transplant, he united the African American community in Peoria, Ill., in trying to save her.

Duane coordinated marrow drives and solicited support from the community with the local National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP) donor center. He helped spread the word about the urgent need for volunteer marrow donors by participating in local and television shows and was featured in other local media. Duane also contributed personal funds to cover the costs of the blood test that determines a volunteer's tissue type.

Although Jasmine ultimately succumbed to the disease, Duane remains committed to marrow donor recruitment. "In memory of Jasmine, we encourage African Americans to make a personal commitment and join other African Americans uniting for life," Duane said.

During this celebration of Kwanzaa, a time of cultural unity for African American families, the NMDP is thanking volunteers, such as Duane, who are making a difference to those in need. "Duane has done more than any single person ever has for African American recruitment at our center. He truly embodies the first principle of Kwanzaa, *umjaga* or unity."

He managed to unite the community in a lifesaving effort," said Pam Egidi, NMDP donor center coordinator at the American Red Cross Heart of America Blood Region, Peoria.

Because the characteristics that determine marrow are inherited, the best possible match for a patient such as Duane's granddaughter is another family member. Unfortunately 70 percent of patients will not find a match within their own families. They will need an unrelated African American. Each year, thousands of African Americans are diagnosed with leukemia, aplastic anemia or other life-threatening blood diseases, curable with a marrow transplant.

Patent, Bob Tolden, 41, is an engineer from Arizona. He suffers from leukemia and is seeking a marrow donor for his transplant. The only possible cure for Bob's leukemia is a marrow transplant. Bob is a very courageous individual determined to beat this deadly disease. He has a 7-year-old daughter, Teagan, whom he is very close to. His wish is to someday walk down the aisle with his daughter, giving her away at her wedding.

Kwanzaa, an African American holiday, is a spiritual, festive and joyous celebration of the oneness and goodness of life. Celebrated December 26 through January 1, Kwanzaa is a time for cultural unity for the African American family and is celebrated in communities across America.

Created in 1966, the Minneapolis-based NMDP is a non-profit organization with a network of 350 affiliates. The NMDP facilitates unrelated marrow transplants for patients with life-threatening blood diseases by recruiting volun-



Bob Tolden, leukemia patient, and his 7-year-old daughter Teagan.

teers of more than 3 million volunteer marrow donors and offering patient services while also conducting research to further the field of unrelated marrow transplantation. Currently, 270,285 African Americans are registered as potential marrow donors with the NMDP. More African American volunteer marrow donors are needed, so others can have a second chance at life.

As of Nov. 30, 1998, the NMDP has facilitated 7,772 unrelated marrow transplants and 301 of these were for African American patients. The NMDP has grown internationally, establishing relationships with transplant hospitals and/or donor registries in more than 22 countries in Europe, Asia, South America, the Middle East and Australia.

For more information about how to become a marrow donor, call 1-800-MARROW-2 or visit the NMDP's website at www.marrow.org.

Food retailers are making WIC work

WASHINGTON—Despite difficulties with reimbursement, private label food policies, pricing policies, licensing and other problems, food retailers are making the WIC program work. A new Food Marketing Institute (FMI) report, "Making WIC Work: A Guide to Successfully Implementing the WIC Program," examines on a case-by-case basis the keys to success with this supplemental nutrition program. The program is designed to assist women, infants and children below the age of five at risk of nutritional deficiency.

Introduced in 1972, the WIC program is administered by USDA but interpreted and implemented by each state.

"This division of operation and implementation is the root of most challenges faced by retailers and program recipients," says Michael Read of Albertsons, co-chairman of the FMI WIC Task Force. "Improved communication among all parties—federal government, state government, retailers and recipients—is the way to make the WIC program work," adds Johnny Johnson of Community Pride Food Stores, co-chairman of the task force.

The new FMI report provides an overview of WIC issues and their importance based on a survey of retailers. It shows how retailers have resolved them at the state level through case studies.

The most important issues cited by retailers include:

- Voucher error resolution
- Inconsistencies in allowing WIC program participants to buy private label products
- Initial retailer authorization to participate in the WIC program
- Continued authorization
- Timeliness of reimbursement

In the case studies, for example, Massachusetts is recognized for its reduced handling of voucher resolution - cited by 90 percent of the survey respondents as a problem - by developing a system of reimbursement that saves retailers from having to submit vouchers when there is an error.

In Ohio, voucher reimbursement - another significant concern - was reduced from 60 days to as few as 10 days due to an aggressive communication effort that includes WIC newsletters and the presence of a WIC representative at local meetings and state conventions.

In many cases, the problems were solved with the guidance of retail advisory groups, formed to work with WIC program officials at the state and local levels. The FMI report recommends that all states form retail advisory boards to help them administer the WIC program more effectively.

The WIC guide was prepared with the assistance of the Food Industry Association Executives and members of FMI.

For more information please contact FMI at 202-429-8554.

Community Calendar

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6

NEWARK — Essex County College will offer student enrollment for the spring semester beginning at 8 a.m. (973) 403-2506.

LINCROFT — The Monmouth County Park System presents an open activity registration with the Monmouth County Park System beginning at 5 p.m. (732) 842-4000.

JERSEY CITY — Hudson County Community College Department of Continuing Education will offer testing for ESL students who wish to enroll for spring semester beginning at 5 p.m. (201) 714-7135.

HEMPSTEAD — Hofstra University College Paralegal Studies Certificate Program Open House at 6, 7 p.m. — 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9

EDISON — Middlesex County and Union County Cultural and Heritage Affairs Agencies is sponsoring a CONFERENCE ON CULTURAL TOURISM: How to Become a Destination. The event will be held at College Center of Middlesex County College, 155 Mill Road the cost is \$7.50 at 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. (732) 745-4489/3898.

ATLANTIC CITY — Sea Skate Pavilion open to the public. This NHL-size rink is enclosed in a tent, with a view of the ocean through clear panels. Ice skating schedule: 1:30-4:30 p.m. admission is \$5 and skate rentals are \$2. (609) 347-2414.

MONDAY, JANUARY 11

LINCROFT — Monmouth County Board of Recreation meeting to be held in the Boardroom of Monmouth County Park System Administrative Office, Thompson Park, 805 Newman Springs Road at 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13

NEW BRUNSWICK — Central Jersey Job Developers Association (CJDA) 15th Annual Job Fair from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Rutgers Labor Education Center, Ryders Lane and Clinton Avenue in New Brunswick (908) 846-2986.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14

NEWARK — The Experts Hard Point Karate World Championships at 7:30 p.m. at Robert Trent Hotel Ticket Price \$15.00 — \$25.00 (973) 623-6419.

NEWARK — Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Annual Lecture presented by Dr. William D. Watley, Senior Pastor of St. James AME Church of Newark at Centennial Hall, 8 p.m. (973) 733-5643.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15

TRENTON — State Chamber Breakfast Roundtable, Banking & Insurance Commissioner Jaynee LaVecchia will be a panel speaker

discussing issues such as the tobacco settlement and banking industry changes. 8:30 - 10 a.m. (609) 998-9696.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16

CLARK — Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs will sponsor a GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP: How to plan and construct a winning proposal from 9 a.m. — 3:30 p.m. at Clark Public Library, 303 Westfield Avenue the cost is \$15.00 (including lunch) each additional person is \$10.00 (908) 688-2550.

HEMPSTEAD — Hofstra University College Saturday Classes for Young People Open House. For children ages 3-18 from noon - 3 p.m. (516) 483-5993.

NEWARK — Second Annual Men of Valor Breakfast and Awards Celebration. Men from Metro Newark area will be honored for their commitment to the community at the Robert Trent Hotel, 50 Park Place, downtown Newark NJ (732) 424-9697 / 1-888-868-9697.

NEWARK — Panel Discussion: The Athlete in Society. Do professional athletes have a responsibility to their communities? William Sutton, professor of sports management at the Univ. of Mass. leads a panel discussion at NJ Historical Society, 52 Park Place, 2 - 3 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17

PLAINFIELD — Plainfield's Division of Recreation is sponsoring a bus trip to see the smash Broadway show "Beauty and the Beast" starting Toni Braxton, at the Palace Theater in New York. Tickets, which cost \$28, and cover the bus trip and admission to the show can be purchased at the Recreation Division's office in the basement of City Hall, 515 Watchung Ave., Mon. - Fri., 9 - 4:45 p.m. (908) 793-3397.

ATLANTIC CITY — "Sunday Painters" are invited to bring their easels, paints, charcoals and palettes to join Susan Davis from 1 - 3 p.m. for an afternoon of painting by the Bay. The cost is \$5 per hour for members; \$10 per hour for non-members. Contact Martin Wilson, Center for the Arts, Inc., at (609) 345-0899.

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 20

HEMPSTEAD — Hofstra University college will hold their University College Open House where they will discuss activities, courses, trips and programs from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. the Student Center Dining Room East. (516) 463-5993.

TEANECK — Holy Name Hospital is offering a two-hour program to help participants stop smoking permanently through behavior modification and guided suggestion techniques in the Adult Day Away Center in the Community Health Service Building at 726 Tannock Road from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. The fee is \$45. (201) 837-1850.

Newark resident receives Lincoln Tech Scholarship



Rahman Daley(center) has been named the recipient of the Lincoln Technical Institute/James Treffinger Scholarship. Pictured with Daley is Essex County Executive Treffinger(left) and Mike Zucchen(right), Director of Lincoln Tech's Campus in Union. Daley, a resident of Newark, is pursuing a career in HVAC.

Newark Boys Choir featured in musical journey



Newark Boys Chorus, ages 10-14, were featured in a one-hour documentary "Roots" traveling through South Africa showcased on NJN public television station.

Thousands of kids "Get in the game" with Revelations



John B. Lowery, co-founder of Revelation Corporation of America, assist one of the thousands of youths who has the opportunity to participate in the "Get in the Game," partnership between Revelation and The University of Memphis. The African-American owned co. donates tickets to athletic games to children.

Kids helping kids



SSGT Darren Dickens(l) and MSGT Jeff Dyson(r) of the U.S. Marines gather toys for Washington, DC inner city children at a special Toys for Tots event sponsored by the Founding Church of Scientology and the Friends of L Ron Hubbard. Jazz Marie Hugson holds two sturdy bears she and many other "elves" collected during this year's toy drive.

Rodeo performers entertain Denver Students



Andre McClain and other celebrities dazzled students at Hill Middle School with fancy rope tricks, while in Denver recently for the 15th Annual Coors Bill Piccitt Invitational Rodeo finals. From left are Jenny Armandaritz, Nury Mejia, Lisat Mendez and Cesar Valdez.

Mayor, Dignitaries, break ground for new post office in Newark



Pictured (L-R) are Thomas Utzinger, Newark Postmaster; Mayor Sharp; James, U.S. Senators Robert Torricelli and Frank Lautenberg.

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We realize that our future lies chiefly in our own hands. We know that neither institution nor friends can make a race stand unless it has strength in its own foundation; that races like individuals must stand or fall by their own merit; that to fully succeed they must practice the virtues of self-reliance, self-respect, industry, perseverance, and economy.

— Paul Robeson

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Nation Briefs

MAIORS EXPRESS OPPOSITION TO IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS

MIAMI — The National Conference of Black Mayors, Inc. (NCBM) adopted a resolution in strong opposition to the impeachment proceedings against President Bill Clinton. The action was sponsored by Denver Mayor Wellington E. Webb, 1st Vice Pres. of the organization. The current impeachment proceedings are based on no basis in constitutional authority," said Webb. "They are a partisan attempt to reverse the general election results of 1996. An abundance of legal scholars, conservative and liberal, agree that the evidence compiled against President Clinton does not constitute grounds for impeachment."

The resolution "urges every member of the U.S. House of Representatives to vote against the impeachment of President Clinton and to bring these expensive and constitutionally troublesome impeachment proceedings to a brief and decisive conclusion."

FORMER BLACK PANTHER TO RUN FOR MAYOR

CHICAGO (NPR) — Democrats to top Bobby Rush, a former member of the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense, announced that he will challenge incumbent Mayor Richard M. Daley in Chicago's first nonpartisan mayoral election on Feb. 23, 1999.

Supporter of Rush 52, said the leader will seek to rebuild the multiracial coalition that helped the late Harold Washington to successfully become the city's first African-American mayor in 1983. Rush currently holds the congressional seat once held by Washington.

Rush, an Albany, Ga. Native, is remembered for leading the Illinois chapter of the Black Panther Party during the late 1960s and being critical of authorities when two Panthers, Fred Hampton and Mark Clark, were gunned down by Chicago police while sleeping.

TIME WARNER INC. TO CONTRIBUTE \$1.25M IN MEMORY OF RON BROWN

Time Warner, Inc. has pledged to contribute a total of \$1.25 million of Ronald H. Brown, former U.S. Secretary of Commerce.

Five hundred thousand dollars will be contributed to both Howard University and Middlebury College, Brown's alma mater, over a four-year period to create a Ronald H. Brown/Time Warner Endowment Fund at each school. Income from the endowment funds will be used to support initiatives that reflect Brown's commitment to global awareness and his understanding of the important relationships of history, language, politics, economics and diplomacy.

Recently Time Warner contributed \$100,000 to the Ron Brown Foundation. And, an additional \$150,000 will be contributed to the foundation over the next years.

"Time Warner has a long-standing commitment to enhance the quality of education in the communities we serve, so we are particularly pleased that our contributions will be used to support the important educational mission of the Ronald H. Brown, and to provide a unique learning experience for students and executives at Howard University and Middlebury College," said Gerald M. Levin, chairman and chief executive of Time Warner, Inc.

"THE MILLENNIUM SUMMIT" TO BE HELD IN MAY

(NPR) — The Fifth African-African American Summit will be held May 15-22, 1999 in Accra, Ghana. Rev. Leon Sullivan, chair and convener of the summit, will host the event with Ghanaian President John Jerry Rawlings. Titled "The Millennium Summit," 6,000 delegates from Africa, America, Europe, the Caribbean and Asia will convene on African soil. Topics of discussion will include business and economic development, education, health care, agriculture and food production and communications. The first summit was held in 1991 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Rev. Sullivan is a retired minister and the first African American to sit on the board of directors of General Motors. He recently published a book, "Moving Mountains: The Principles and Purposes of Leon Sullivan."

By Gumbel Mstume

JOHANNESBURG (IPS) — As the reign of Pres. Nelson Mandela draws to a close, he is quietly paving the way for Thabo Mbeki to steer the country into the next millennium.

Mbeki, now the deputy president, has said he will not make any major changes when he takes over. But, South Africa without Mandela will definitely be a different place, Mbeki will state as head of state after the next general elections this year.

At 36 years of age, Thabo Mnyvela spent the last part of 1998 in preparing for his eventual takeover of

Mandela's office, if the ruling African National Congress (ANC) wins at the polls.

Mandela has discreetly slipped out of major presidential functions, sending Mbeki on what he calls an introductory tour to meet with international leaders.

"South Africa has had five years to consolidate the new government, and I don't think there are going to be any major policy shifts," said Alfred Stadler, a political scientist at the University of the Witwatersrand.

However, Stadler added that Mbeki is among the new breed of politicians. In political circles he is considered a man

who gets things done.

"Mandela belongs to the generation of leaders who rose in the politics of rallies, demagoguery and fine speeches, and that generation is out," Stadler told IPS. "Mbeki is a confident, well-trained British university graduate, although he is not as charismatic as Mandela."

But, the road ahead for Mbeki as South Africa's second president will not be an entirely smooth one. Mbeki may have to deal with a more militant labor movement. A rift between the labor movement and government that widened in 1998 is expected to deepen this year.

The 1.8 million-strong Congress of

South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) is an ally of the ANC but has major differences with the party over macro-economic policies. These rumors have fueled speculation that Cosatu may run candidates on its own ticket in the upcoming elections.

Jobs are also hard to come by. According to research by the South African Institute of Race Relations (SAIRR), the rate of unemployment is growing by eight percent yearly and could reach 43 percent by 2006.

Perhaps the biggest challenge facing Mbeki's government will be the AIDS epidemic. South Africa has one of the fastest growing AIDS rates in the world,

with 1,500 people infected daily. More than three million people are currently have the virus in South Africa.

Political analysts are also asking if Mbeki will be able to hold the center within a party comprised of disparate ideological outlooks — communists, trade unionists, liberals, intellectuals and capitalists.

However, Mbeki is described by the influential business newspaper, The Financial Mail, as "an 'insight talking' on big issues such as HIV/AIDS and political corruption, and the need for a 'democratic government, accommodating tribal differences and complementing trade with development assistance.'"

First-edition medallion depicting celebration of Kwanzaa to benefit UNCF

LOS ANGELES — Years from now, the auction blocks of the world, buyers will witness a rare and unique tribute to the heritage of Kwanzaa. They'll see a medallion depicting the celebration of Kwanzaa, in its design, it's being quietly acquired now by collectors everywhere. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the United Negro College Fund (UNCF).

Like the first-ever Kwanzaa stamp issued by the U.S. Postal Service, this limited, first-edition Kwanzaa collectible coin also is designed by world-famous, African-American artist, Synthia Saint James. With paintings that grace celebrity homes, major buildings and airports around the world, Saint James is known for her work on canvas the cultures, costumes, ceremonies and emotions of people everywhere.

The star award-winning design for the newly minted Kwanzaa coin came from Saint James' original painting, The Feast, a colorful and vivid work that depicts the celebra-

tion and symbols of Kwanzaa. This coin is the first in a series. Seven other coins also will be produced and will feature Saint James' work each coin depicting one of the seven principles of Kwanzaa: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith.

The Kwanzaa collectible coin is minted in polished bronze with a glossy, mirror-like finish, sealed inside a protective capsule to preserve its value and condition. The reverse side of the first-edition medallion includes the seven principles of Kwanzaa in stunning relief. The collectible is presented in a handsome keepsake portfolio featuring a vibrant, full-color reproduction of another of Saint James' work Celebration.

The commemorative coin portfolio is priced at only \$19.95, plus \$4.95 for shipping and handling. Buyers can order with their credit

card for immediate shipment, toll free, 1-877-KWANZAA (1-877-392-6922). The coin is issued by The Kwanzaa Heritage Society, a division of The Kwanzaa Corporation, a real estate investment corporation whose mission is to support the redevelopment of the African-American community.

The United Negro College Fund is the nation's oldest and most successful higher education assistance organization. Its mission is to enhance the quality of education by raising operating funds for member colleges and universities, providing financial assistance to deserving students and supplying technical assistance to member institutions. Since its founding in 1944 by Dr. Frederick D. Patterson, The College Fund has raised more than \$1.3 billion to keep the doors to educational opportunity open for more than 300,000 men and women.



(l-r) Carl Wayne, development director for The College Fund/UNCF in Los Angeles; Reginald Ingram, Vice President, The College Fund/UNCF Western Region; artist Synthia Saint James, designer of the Kwanzaa coin and the Kwanzaa U.S. postal stamp; Ben Harrison Tyler, secretary/treasurer of the Kwanzaa Heritage Society; Clifton Hinds, chief executive officer of Kwanzaa; and Greg Phillips, President of Kwanzaa

Annabelle "Lefty" Lee, All-American Baseball Star

ROSEMEAD, Calif. — While many women were joining America's work force during World War II, Annabelle "Lefty" Lee took to the pitcher's mound and made history as a star in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League. Annabelle will embody that unique era of baseball when the roles down Colorado Boulevard, New Year's Day, on Edison International's list.

Edison's entry, "The Great American Pastime," celebrates America's love affair with an afternoon at the ball park. The 55-foot-long, all-electric float features four stylized baseball players representing the past hundred years of the game, including a player from the turn of the century, one from the National Negro Baseball League, one from the All-American Girls League and one representing a modern team.

"America's major league baseball players were going off to war and we were given a chance to play professional baseball," Annabelle, who is age 76, still remembers the golden era with sharp clarity. "Women from all over the country were recruited and we gave thousands of fans some of the best baseball of that era."

In 1943, more than 300 prospects descended on Wrigley Field in Chicago to try out for 64 positions on four league teams. Annabelle joined the league in 1944, becoming a pitcher and first-base woman for the Minneapolis Millers.

Her career lasted seven years. "I was excited and scared all at the same time," the Costa Mesa resident recalled. "I was thrilled to leave behind my 955-a-month bank clerk's position for an \$85-a-week professional sports contract but a little wary about departing Southern California for points unknown."

A baseball fan from the time she was old enough to swing a bat, Annabelle learned the sport from her father, an early 1900's baseball standout for the Hollywood Stars. "To teach me pitching accuracy, he made me throw a baseball through a live hang from a tree and then at a strike zone painted on an old mattress."

According to Lee, Wrigley cornered himself not only with his players' athleticism but also with their feminine demeanor. "He sent us all to charm school. He wanted us to play like men but act like ladies," Annabelle didn't disappoint them.

Between 1944 and 1950, Annabelle made history. She pitched the league's first perfect game in 1944 and then a no-hitter the next year. Her career 2.25 earned-run average would be the envy of any major league pitcher today. "I was a just ball pitcher," she confessed. "But I had a great knuckle ball."

When asked about the 1992 movie, "A League of Their Own," which memorialized the women's league, Annabelle said it was about 70% accurate. In real life, the managers never entered the women's dressing rooms, the movie said it was about 70% accurate. In real life, the managers never entered the women's dressing rooms, the movie said it was about 70% accurate.

Moreover, the league demonstrated that women could play a man's game and entertain the fans. "It was a time when women took over men's positions as they went off to war—not only in the field of manufacturing but in the field of dreams," she said.

Who will join the next 100 Most Influential

Send in your nominations now!
Use the form underneath

Deadline for nominations is January 29, 1999

FOURTH ANNUAL CITY NEWS

Recognizing the 100 Most Influential who have fostered the progress of black people or the rebuilding of New Jersey's urban centers

In nominating a person(s) for the award, you must identify yourself and give a phone number where you can be reached. The Fourth Annual 100 Most Influential Awards Gala will be held on Thursday, May 6, 1999.

Nomination Form

All information is confidential. The deadline is January 29, 1999

Nominee's name _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Bus. Phone _____ Fax _____

Briefly describe why you feel your nominee has contributed significantly to the progress of black people in New Jersey or to the rebuilding of New Jersey's urban centers.

Your name _____ Phone _____ Fax _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

How do you know this person _____

Send to: City News 100, P.O. Box 191, Plainfield, NJ 07060 or fax to (908) 753-1036

Nominee Categories — Please check one category:

Civil Rights _____ Media Journalism _____

Community Development _____ Arts & Culture _____

Corporate Community Involvement _____ Religion _____

Economic Development _____ Health, Science & Technology _____

Education _____ Entertainment & Sports _____

Minority Business Enterprise _____ Politics, Law & Government _____

BUSINESS
CALENDAR

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9

EDISON — Middlesex and Union County will cohost Cultural Tourism Conference at the College Center of Middlesex County College, 195 Mt. Road from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (908) 556-2550

MONDAY, JANUARY 11

EDISON — The New Jersey Association of Women Business Owners Inc. will hold a seminar on public relations in business featuring speaker Pam Maslo beginning at 5 p.m. (732) 651-1485.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12

LEBANON — A Technology Expo at Raritan Valley Community College beginning at 9 a.m. (908) 556-2550. Center open to the public, 12:30 to 7:00 p.m. (908) 735-5955

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15

TRENTON — The New Jersey Chamber of Commerce will hold a round-table state chamber breakfast seminar at the Country Club beginning at 8:30 a.m. (609) 989-7888

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16

CLARK — The Union County Department of Economic Development will hold a workshop on grant writing in business at the Clark Public Library beginning at 9 a.m. (908) 556-2550

NEWARK

— University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey will hold a seminar on hospital finance at the hospital conference room beginning at 11 a.m. (973) 373-7454

UNION

— The Union Chamber of Commerce presents a seminar on saving money in the 21st Century at its offices beginning at 6 p.m. (908) 735-8001

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21

EDISON — Somerset County Chamber of Commerce holds a Small Business Council Breakfast; these professionals will discuss the latest developments in the year 2000 battle beginning at 8:00 a.m. sharp and networking at 9:00 a.m. (908) 725-1552

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22

CAMDEN — The Gloucester County Library System and The Camden Chamber of Commerce presents the Small Business seminar at the library beginning at 9 a.m. (856) 645-2434

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26

JAMESBURG — The New Jersey Chamber of Commerce presents a seminar on Y2K in business at the Jamesburg County Club beginning at 8 p.m. (609) 989-7888

MONTCLAIR

— The Montclair Chamber of Commerce presents a business discussion on investing with small business at their location beginning at 7 p.m. (973) 509-7700

CRANFORD

— Robert L. Tammaro & Co. will offer free consultation for small and big business. Call (609) 655-8700 for time and information.

NEW YORK

— New York University presents a seminar on the music business at the New York City campus. Call (212) 986-7800 for time and information.

NEW YORK

— The American Management Association will hold a workshop on employees and employers at their headquarters. Call 1-800-348-7350 for time and information.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28

NEWARK — The Regional Business Partnership and the Commerce & Industry Association of NJ will hold a business dinner at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPACE) Theater Square Gift beginning at 7 p.m. (973) 422-6237

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

JAMESBURG — The New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce will host the 16th Annual Walk to Washington & Congressional Dinner. Call (609) 989-7888 for information.

LOS ANGELES

— The Seventh Annual Public Relations Advertising Marketing Excellence (PRAME) Awards have proved to be a rewarding night for the Newark firm Correct Communications, a winner in multiple categories.

THE SIX-YEAR-OLD MARKETING

communications company won top honors in the Sales Promotion and Entertainment Categories for its overall campaign and especially radio advertisement promoting the new musical "SAM".

Correct, of Lock Street, also cap-

Ownership dunks NBA season and players

By John William Templeton

Tall, acrobatic and graceful, willing to talk trash or empty the bench to defend their franchise, the players of the National Basketball Association are among the most admired and imitated athletes in the world. Lately, they've been very humble, shuffling into hotel suites to ask a group of short men in suits for the right to play basketball.

The "suits" have laid down the ultimate "d's." They're betting that the players are so concerned about getting 50 percent of the NBA's revenues that they will not realize that they could have 100 percent of it.

When an Underground Railroad conductor in the mid-1800s was lauded for helping thousands of African Americans escape from slavery, she replied, "I could have helped thousands more if they had realized they were slaves."

Cluck D of the rap group Public Enemy, usually a step ahead of his colleagues, would have taken the conductor's lead. His group recently started distributing its music over the Internet, bypassing a recording company's delay in shipping its latest album.

NBA players need to understand why million-dollar contracts, as exciting as they sound, are nothing more than shackles. Michael Jordan, the Chicago Bull legend, and William

Gates, the Microsoft founder, started making million-dollar salaries about the same time.

Jordan's last yearly salary of \$30 million is more than Gates', but the latter is the world's richest man because he owns the source of his salary.

Perhaps the players should ask themselves why the nation's Fortune 500 CEOs do not pay themselves such exorbitant salaries. Instead, they take stock options.

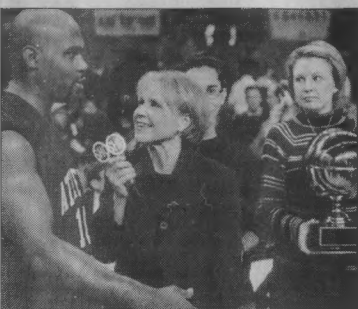
Regardless of the lack of business savvy, the 300 or so millionaires who play in the NBA have been given their freedom because the league has locked them out. All of their contracts are null and void until the league decides to let them back in. The league is quite prepared for them not to be professional men's basketball this season because it will receive its television contract revenue regardless.

Perhaps more than other sports, a basketball team is literally nothing without its players. People come to see the players, not the owners. What if they could see both the players and the owners at the same time?

There are several ways to create an All-Star Players Basketball Association. The current membership of the union could constitute itself as what has become known as an ESOP: Employee Stock Ownership and take over management of their careers. Shares of stock could be distributed

based on the size of existing contracts with an incentive plan for performance. This new entity could either raise capital through an initial public offering or set up limited partnerships for each team with the league as general managing partner. Because of the space of new coliseums being built around the country, there are multiple venues available to play in, including college gyms. For maximum profit, the league should own its own television rights, purchase time on networks and keep the advertising revenues for itself. The players would then also keep all the revenues from merchandising and marketing of products. Each player, no matter how long he has played, would have shares of ownership that he would be able to hold on to forever.

It is not only an opportunity for the players, but also for black entrepreneurs like BET's Bob Johnson, Bruce Thomas, Dave Bing, Jim Bruce Llewellyn, Percy Sutton, Don Cornelius, the New York Jets' Sam Jonah, Bill Cosby, Oprah Winfrey and Spike Lee to help the players see the light. Some of them have been rebuffed in efforts to buy a basketball team. They could step forward with the seed capital to launch a new league, political contacts to achieve stadium space and the management expertise to make it run smoothly. They could offer the players



NBA player Tim Hardaway at charity game in Atlantic City.

the chance to have ownership equal to what they might achieve through an ESOP.

Women's players have already seen the light by taking ownership in the American Basketball League, which is also opposed by the NBA's WNBA subsidiary. Controlling professional basketball would give African Americans the ability to build such networks as BET to national sources.

The only barrier to this promised land are the "suits" who surround the players known as agents. They have as much at stake in the golden handcuffs that players wear as owners do. If the current labor struggle gains the players a few more percentage points, most players will never see it.

Agents fill players' heads with the illusion that making as much as \$30

million in salary is a good thing. But most businessmen understand that investment income with capital gains tax rates is much more preferable. However, you won't hear agents saying that because they can then shift the money into tax shelters from which the funds will pass from the player's nominal control to theirs.

Players need to look beyond their own immediate gratification to the realization that they can have financial freedom for themselves and the communities they come from. We already act as though we own basketball. It's time we really did.

John William Templeton is executive editor of *Griot*, the African American, African and Caribbean business daily. Contact him at ask@black-money.com.

Jobless rate ends at an outstanding 4.2 percent

TRENTON — New Jersey's economy continued growing in November with an unemployment rate of 4.5 percent and job growth of 6,300 positions, and the economy appeared to be on a roll.

The jobless rate was below 5 percent for the sixth straight month and employment reached another record high level, according to preliminary results from the state Labor Department's monthly survey.

Although the increase is only one-sixth of 1 percent, the number of people work in New Jersey increased by 6,300 from October to another record-high employment level of 3,821,900 on a seasonally adjusted basis in November.

"New Jersey's economy has been growing at a very healthy and sustainable pace this year," Labor Commissioner Mel Gelade said. Through the first 11 months of 1998, nonfarm employment has grown by 55,400 jobs and New Jersey's economic expansion has generated a net increase of 314,200 jobs since January 1994, he said.

The Labor Department's latest monthly employment survey found, on a seasonally adjusted basis, the services division added 4,700 jobs from October to November.

Nearly half of that growth occurred in business services, which posted a gain of 2,200 jobs filled during November. But that hike was attributed to increases in temporary help and employment agencies (800 jobs) and in computer and in data processing services (700).

Employment in engineering management services rose by 1,100. The survey revealed gains of 400 each in health care and social services, and of 300 in various service and recreational activities including pet care, parking garages and movie theaters.

Total trade employment grew by

900 over the month. An increase of 500 in wholesale trade was due primarily to hiring by distributors of durable goods.

Retail trade rose by 400 due to several modest gains, including increases of 600 in apparel shops, 500 in food stores and 300 in department and variety stores. Those outweighed decreases of 700 in eating and drinking places and 300 in assorted retail shops including pharmacies, liquor stores, and fuel oil dealers.

Job holding in finance, insurance and real estate increased by 900. The gain was due mostly to continued employment growth in

stock and commodity brokerages and non-depository credit agencies, including mortgage brokerages.

Construction employment rose by 600 to a seasonally adjusted level of 138,400 in November. The gain was concentrated among special trade contractors. Over the past year, construction filled 6,600 more jobs.

Manufacturing employment edged upward by 300 from October to a level of 474,200 (seasonally adjusted) in November. The greatest increase in manufacturing was 400 in rubber and plastics. The largest decline - of 400 - occurred in paper products.

DO SOMETHING

See John Amos in Halley's Comet at NJPAC to benefit Do Something

On Wednesday February 24, 1999 at 7 p.m. John Amos will be performing his acclaimed one-man show *Halley's Comet* at NJPAC's Victoria Theater. All proceeds directly support the programs of Newark Do Something. Tickets are only \$35 and go on sale at the NJPAC box office on December 29.

Newark Do Something's goal is to help make Newark a highly livable city by helping to develop leaders. To that end, we inspire, train, mobilize and fund young people and others to measurably strengthen Newark.

NOTICE TO POTENTIAL VICTIMS OF ALLEGED HOUSING DISCRIMINATION AT WESTFIELD MANOR APARTMENTS WESTFIELD, NEW JERSEY

The United States is seeking information regarding possible victims of housing discrimination in connection with a lawsuit filed against the owners and managers of the Westfield Manor Apartments located at 800 Forest Avenue, Westfield, New Jersey.

On June 18, 1997, the United States filed a complaint in federal district court in Newark charging the owner and managers of the Westfield Manor Apartments with discrimination against persons on the basis of race or color. This complaint is only an allegation and no finding has been made by any court as to whether the defendants have illegally discriminated.

In connection with this lawsuit the United States seeks to locate persons who have applied for or otherwise applied about housing at these apartments and who may have been discriminated against because of their race or color. Persons who are found to be victims of housing discrimination may have certain rights, if liability is found and damages proven.

You may be a victim if you are a black person (or someone who was with you or with whom you intended to live in a black person) and you applied for an apartment, or asked about renting an apartment at the Westfield Manor Apartments, and:

- 1. You were told that no apartments were available at Westfield Manor Apartments;
- OR
- 2. You were shown a dirty, occupied, or partially renovated unit at Westfield Manor Apartments;
- OR
- 3. You were otherwise discriminated against or discouraged from renting a unit at Westfield Manor Apartments.

If you (or someone you know) met any of these conditions, or have any information that might be relevant to this lawsuit, please contact the United States Department of Justice at 1-800-896-7743. You may also write to:

Westfield Manor Apartments Case
United States Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division
Housing and Civil Enforcement Section
P.O. Box 6598
Washington, D.C. 20035-5598

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Health Calendar

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6

LINDEN — The Blood Center of New Jersey celebrates its National Blood Donor Month at the Presbyterian Church, 400 N. 9th and Princeton Rd., from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7

NEW BRUNSWICK — The New Jersey State Bar Foundation will have a free public seminar on "Financing Long-Term Health Care" from 11 to 3 p.m. (732) 937-7518

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8

ORANGE — The Blood Center of NJ announces its National Blood Donor Month at the Hospital Center of Orange, 188 S. Essex Avenue from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (908) 256-6365

TEANECK — Holy Name Hospital, in conjunction with the National Department of Health and Human Services, will offer a pressure screening 725 Teaneck Rd. (201) 897-1850

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9

PLAINFIELD — The Greater Plainfield Area Chapter of the ARC and New Jersey Blood Services will hold a blood drive at First Unitarian Church, 724 Park Ave. (908) 200-3118

MONDAY, JANUARY 11

PLAINFIELD — The Blood Center of NJ celebrates its National Blood Donor Month at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, Park Avenue from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. (908) 256-6365

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12

NEW BRUNSWICK — The New Jersey State Bar Foundation will present a free public seminar on "Special Needs, Trusts and Guardianships for People with Serious Disabilities and Mental Illness" from 7 to 9 p.m. at the New Jersey Law Center, One Constitution Square (off Ryders Lane), (732) 937-7518

Holy Name Hospital is offering Mass Therapy sessions in its Health Services Building, 725 Teaneck Rd. from 5 to 7 p.m. by appointment only (201) 897-1850

NEWARK — The Blood Center of NJ is celebrating their National Blood Donor Month at Columbus Hospital, 495 N. 13th Street from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (908) 256-6365

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14

The Greater Plainfield Area Chapter of the ARC and New Jersey Blood Services will hold a open blood drive at Our Lady of the Mount, 167 Mt. Bethel Rd. - Warren from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (908) 756-6414

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20

NEW BRUNSWICK — The New Jersey State Bar Foundation, The New Jersey State Bar Association, One Elder Law Section and the ARC of New Jersey will cosponsor a free public seminar highlighting developmental disabilities and will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. at the New Jersey Law Center, One Constitution Square (732) 937-7518

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22

TEANECK — Holy Name Hospital in conjunction with the Teaneck Department of Health and Human Services will offer a free Blood Pressure Screening from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. (201) 897-1850

BELLEVILLE — The Women's Health Center at Clara Maass, in cooperation with Barlex Laboratories, hosts a free medical support group for women experiencing menopause. The Menopause Awareness and Support Group meets on Wednesday evenings from 7 to 8 p.m. in the Women's Health Center at Clara Maass located on the lobby level of the Clara Maass Continuing Care Center at Belleville.

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Religious leaders clarifying, cajoling on organ donation

WASHINGTON — Churches and synagogues across the country will ask the faithful to donate more than a few dollars this weekend. They want their kidneys, livers and hearts — after death, of course.

Tackling a perception that religious groups oppose donation, they'll put donor cards in bulletins and encourage families to talk it over. Transplant recipients and people waiting for new organs will speak at services.

"There's no factual information about the afterlife," said Rev. Clark Lobenstein, an organizer of this weekend's National Donor Sabbath. "We're dealing with beliefs, we're dealing with family traditions, we're dealing with what Grandma said. These are deeply ingrained."

One goal of the weekend is to let people know their religious support organ donation.

"People aren't sure how their reli-

gion stands on it," said Mark Sanders, 43, who is waiting for a kidney transplant and plans to speak Sunday at his church in Woodford, Md. "It's an opportunity to clear up a lot of things."

Another goal is to prompt family discussions. Survivors do not want people to support donation, but when families are asked, hard refusal, often because survivors don't know what their loved ones would have wanted.

The weekend also offers the organ transplant community a chance to change the subject on its divisive fight over how to allocate donated organs to something everyone agrees on: the need to increase donations.

At the end of September, 58,146 patients were awaiting transplants of a variety of organs. In 1997, there were about 17,000 transplants, and nearly 4,000 people died each year waiting for an organ.

Pastors, rabbis and other clergy in

about 35 states are taking part in the weekend. The Congress of National Black Churches is a co-sponsor, trying to increase low organ donations among black Americans, who make up a disproportionate share of people waiting for transplants.

In Detroit, the Minority Organ and Tissue Transplant Education Program is planning a bone marrow/organ donor drive, a health summit and an appearance on a religious talk show.

"We'll be asking those people who have been recipients of or are awaiting organ donations to address their own congregations," said MOTTEP program director Remona A. Chapman. "Most religions view organ donation as the ultimate gift of giving."

The Transplantation Society of Michigan and the Michigan Eye Bank are providing handouts and other literature to volunteers who will distrib-

ute them at their congregations. Organizers report that the greatest response to donor education comes from church services.

In Savannah, Ga., organizers plan a candle-lighting to honor families and recipients. In Parsippany, N.J., the Jewish Community Center will display a Donor Family Quilt. A Youngstown, Ohio, church plans a spiritual concert.

One fear shared by religious and non-religious people alike is that doctors might not try as hard to save their

lives if they have agreed to donate organs.

In fact, doctors who work with dying patients are different from the doctors who work with transplant patients, hospital officials say. In most cases, two doctors must certify a donor is brain dead before organs are removed.

Organizers have sent thousands of churches and synagogues informational sheets and donor cards to tuck into weekly bulletins and use in newsletters.

College Epilepsy group forms at Rutgers University

NEW BRUNSWICK — Students at Rutgers University with an interest in epilepsy have organized a first-in-the-nation campus-based organization dedicated to supporting students with epilepsy, educating the public about epilepsy and providing community services to those with epilepsy and their families.

E.S.C.A.P.E. (Educating Society's Conceptions About People with Epilepsy) was founded by Katherine Grimsaw of Richmond, Kanisha Paul of Cranford and Kelly Selander of Piscataway, all from New Jersey.

"We found that there is a great need for unity among people who care about this disorder," said Katherine Grimsaw, "other because they have personal experience with it or because a friend or loved one has experienced it."

There is also a tremendous need for public education about seizures, despite the fact that so many in history have had epilepsy, included in the names of Cleopatra, Van Gogh, Dostoyevsky and Katherine the Great. Could these people even be able to get a job today? Kelly Selander asked.

E.S.C.A.P.E. drew high-level attention almost immediately. Tony Coelho, Chairman of the President's Committee for Employment of People with Disabilities, who him-

self is affected by epilepsy, challenged the group to become an example for other New Jersey colleges and has made a personal financial contribution to that end.

E.S.C.A.P.E. has held several on-campus meetings and organized a ribbon distribution to help promote November as National Epilepsy Awareness Month.

Currently, E.S.C.A.P.E.'s membership, said to be "about twenty," is planning educational events, social activities, and an awareness campaign to be conducted university-wide. E.S.C.A.P.E. is an affiliated program of the Epilepsy Foundation of New Jersey.

The Epilepsy Foundation is a non-profit voluntary and charitable agency dedicated to helping to improve the quality of life for people with epilepsy, and their loved ones.

EFN offers a broad spectrum of individual and family support services to those affected with epilepsy and other developmental disabilities including counseling, information and referral, support groups, advocacy, a parent to parent network, a toy lending library, community recreation activities, and a summer camp.

For more information on the Epilepsy Foundation of New Jersey, please call (800) EFN-TIE or visit the website at www.efn.org.

Eye examinations needed for Glaucoma

JACKSON, NJ — January is Glaucoma Awareness Month. With an early warning signs of possible vision loss. Dr. Rummel and Dr. Raghu of Rummel Eye Care are urging those at risk for glaucoma to get regular eye examinations to help detect this blinding eye disease.

"One of the challenges we face with glaucoma is that people are not aware that the disease is slowly stealing their vision," Dr. Rummel said. "By the time they realize they are losing vision, it is too late to restore the vision they have already lost. However, with treatment, glaucoma usually can be controlled and remaining vision can be protected."

January is Glaucoma Awareness Month. Rummel Eye Care, along with the National Eye Institute (NEI) and more than 30 other organizations, are highlighting the importance of eye care and good vision.

Glaucoma is a leading cause of irreversible vision loss in the United States and affects about three million people.

It is estimated that up to one-half of this number may be unaware they may have the disease. Dr. Rummel identifies high risk groups as "Everyone over the age of 40, African-Americans over the age of 40, and people who have a family history of glaucoma. These people need to receive an optic nerve and eye pressure exam at least every two years."

Glaucoma occurs when the normal fluid pressure inside the eye progressively increases, leading to optic nerve damage and reduced peripheral (side) vision. As the disease worsens, the field of vision gradually narrows and blindness may result. However, it is important

to note that elevated fluid pressure inside the eye may put people at risk for glaucoma, but it does not necessarily mean they have the disease. Whether or not a person develops glaucoma depends on the level of pressure optic nerve can tolerate without being damaged. The level of pressure is different for each person.

Dr. Raghu said while glaucoma screening techniques have improved and can play a vital role in educating people about the risks of glaucoma, the best way to detect glaucoma is to have an eye exam. To allow the eye care professional to obtain a view of the eye's optic nerve and measure eye pressure to look for early signs of glaucoma. "Health care providers should make a more active role in encouraging their patients to get a regular eye exam," Dr. Raghu said.

"If glaucoma is suspected a dilated exam using eye drops to allow a better view of the optic nerve is indicated, as well as a visual field test to measure for side vision loss."

Carl Kester, M.D., director of the National Eye Institute, one of the Federal government's National Institutes of Health, said that people at risk for glaucoma often believe that if their vision is fine, there is no need to be concerned. It is only when they notice vision loss that they take action.

"With no obvious problems associated in glaucoma's early stages, people believe their quality of life is not affected," said Dr. Kester. "But it's important that people at risk for glaucoma understand that vision lost from glaucoma is lost forever. If glaucoma is detected and treated early in its progression, it can usually be controlled before serious vision loss occurs."

Doria measures seeks to guarantee health care coverage for customers of ailing HMO's

—Tightened Controls Necessary: After Near Collapse of HIP-NJ & APPP

(BAYONNE) — Citing the need to guarantee health care treatment for managed care customers regardless of the managed care organization's financial status, Assembly Democratic Leader Joseph V. Doria Jr. has introduced legislation that would establish an HMO guaranty trust fund to assist financially troubled HMOs.

Doria's legislation (A-2735) would establish the "New Jersey Health Maintenance Organization Guaranty Association" to protect both enrollees and health care providers if the HMO faces financial trouble or insolvency. This association — comprised of the state's 23 HMOs — would ensure that the health care service obligations of HMOs to their enrollees and health care providers are satisfied.

"The state can no longer take a piece-meal approach when dealing with insolvent HMOs," said Doria (D-Hudson). "Protections need to be in place to prevent future occurrences. We need to ensure that no patient is turned away from treatment, and that health care providers are being reimbursed for services provided."

"Clearly, more attention over the financial conditions of HMOs is both justified and appropriate."

HIP Health Plan of NJ made a deal with Virginia-based PHP Healthcare Corp. to run its operations in New Jersey. Now PHP's NJ subsidiary — Finnacle Health Enterprises — is bankrupt. After owing \$150 million to NJ doctors and hospitals, HIP was placed under control of the State Department of Banking and Insurance in November. Due to reports of refusals by physicians to treat the remaining 154,000 HIP patients, the

department proposed an agreement between physicians and hospitals to guarantee partial payment of HIP related claims.

Dec. 11, a state Superior Court judge ordered the State Department of Banking and Insurance to take control over American Preferred Provider Plan (APPP). APPP — a three-year-old company based in Paterson — provides coverage to approximately 46,000 poor, elderly, and disabled residents, most of them Medicaid recipients. The provider is \$25 million in debt.

"The state is not in the business of bailing out managed care companies involved in unscrupulous business practices," said Doria. "We need to protect individuals covered by HMOs and ensure their access to quality health care. The industry needs to be accountable for its own actions."

"Under provisions of Doria's measure, the association would be a private, not-for-profit entity under the immediate supervision of the State Department of Banking and Insurance. The association would be authorized by a board of directors comprised of HMO representatives and health care providers. Any HMO that wants to operate in New Jersey would be required to be a member of the association."

The association would be required to assure payment of the contractual obligations of financially impaired or financially insolvent HMOs.

The organization would also be required to repay the state in full for covering the existing contractual obligations of financially impaired HMOs within two years after the bill's enactment.



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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6

NEW YORK — 22ND Avenue Three Kings Day Parade at 1220 Fifth Avenue

For information call (212) 631-7272

NEWARK — The Newark museum will begin its Universe presentation in the planetarium which will explore celestial phenomena.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8

NEW YORK — Gaga Theatre presents Lavinia Speaks & Part II Black's two one-act, one character plays dealing with the realization of self. Show time is 7:00 p.m. 429 W. 42nd St. (212) 929 5425

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9

Cindy Mangens and Steve Gulletti in concert at the Watchung Arts Center 8:00p. Tickets are \$10 for more information call (908) 753-0190

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10

NEWARK — Liza Minnelli at NJPAC 7:30 p.m. Featuring the Cortes Alexander Trio and Musical Director Bill Laver

PLAINFIELD — The Historical Society of Plainfield will feature artist Gary Hart's solo exhibit from 2-4 p.m. at the Drake House Museum in Plainfield. (908) 527-2995

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14

NEW YORK — A major exhibition of work by colonist and mail artist Ray Johnson (1927-95), organized by the Weener Center for the Arts, will premiere at the Whitney Museum of Art Center for the Arts (212) 570-9633

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16

WESTFIELD — The Choral Art Society of New Jersey, Inc. will present a Baroque and Handel Concert at 8 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church in Westfield on Pleasant Ave. at Broad St. (908) 740-4171

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17

A book reading with Geoffrey O'Brien 3:00p.m. at the Museum of the City of New York

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20

PLAINFIELD — Poetry at Plainfield Public Library - 6th Street at Park Ave. 8:45p.m. 8:00p.m. for information call (908) 757-1111

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26

NEW BRUNSWICK — In conjunction with the Unique Lives and Experiences, Women's Lecture Series the State Theatre will sponsor "Meet the celebrity Puff Blumenthal as a special event fund-raiser Nobel Prize winner for Literature and author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel Beloved now a motion picture starring Oprah Winfrey at 7:30 p.m.

'I'll Make Me A World,' sneak preview comes to Newark

NEWARK — Newark's art and culture enthusiasts are among the few U.S. audiences that will preview excerpts from the long-awaited PBS documentary series, "I'll Make Me A World," on Sunday, Jan. 10, at 2:00 p.m. at the Newark Museum. Produced and directed by the late Henry Hampton, producer of Eyes On The Prize, this six-hour television epic chronicles the immense contributions of African-American artists to American culture. The event, which also includes a brief discussion of the program by associate producer, Sam Pollard, is hosted by the Newark Coalition for "I'll Make Me A World." Admission is free.

"This is a rare opportunity to preview some of the highlights of the series," explains Jane Stein, director of public programs at The Newark Museum and one of the organizers of the sneak preview. "There are few people who will see the series before February. The opportunity to hear from Sam Pollard will give audiences a unique insight into the series and some of the artists profiled."

The afternoon will also include jazz music from the Steve and Liza Colton Quintet. The Coltons, both well-known local musicians will perform the music of jazz legends such as Duke Ellington and Sarah Vaughn. In addition, legendary visual artist and quilter, Faith Ringgold, who is profiled in "I'll Make Me A World," will be at the museum to discuss and sign her recent book, "The Invisibile Princess." Ringgold is best known for her book "Tar Beach."

This event and a series of lectures, screenings, concerts and exhibitions are being presented in January and early February at sites throughout Newark by the Newark Coalition for "I'll Make Me A World." The coalition is comprised of several prominent Newark-based art and cultural organizations including Aljira, a Center For Contemporary Art, The Newark Museum, New Communities Corporation, the New Jersey Historical Society, Seton Hall University, Newark Public Schools and the New Jersey Performing Arts Center.

"I'll Make Me A World," premieres on PBS Feb. 1-3, 1999. It takes a century-long look at the contributions of African-American artists to American culture. Each two-hour segment examines an approximate 30-year time span of contributions.

Broad in its scope of art disciplines, television viewers will learn about the work of musicians, dancers, filmmakers, writers, poets, painters, quilters and playwrights. The series reveals many of the behind-the-scenes struggles and triumphs of artists as diverse as Buddy Bolden (trumpeter/band leader), Oscar Micheaux (filmmaker), W.E.B. Du Bois (scholar), Dizzy Gillespie (jazz trumpeter/band leader), Jacob Lawrence (painter), James Baldwin (writer), Spike Lee (filmmaker), Bill T. Jones (dancer/choreographer), Kara Walker (visual artist) and many others.



"The PJ's," coming to a city near you

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — The magic of the award-winning Will Vinton Studios joins forces with the cultural sensibility of Eddie Murphy in "The PJ's," the first stop-motion animation series ever to air in prime time. Set in a big city housing project, the "PJ's" series examines cultural stereotypes and taboos as it takes a satirical look at urban family life. Created by Murphy and Larry Wilmore & Steve Tompkins, "The PJ's" is produced by Imagine Television, Eddie Murphy Productions and Will Vinton Studios in association with Touchstone Television and premieres Sunday, Jan. 10, at 8:30 p.m. (ET/PT) on FOX.

The series moves to its regular time on Tuesday, Jan. 12, at 8:30 p.m. Voicing Thurgood Stubbs, Murphy stars as the cantankerous superintendant of the Hilton-Jacobs Projects. All Thurgood wants is to be left alone with his recliner and his beloved "Wheel of Fortune." But whether it's a flood of water from faulty plumbing or a flood of complaints from the tenants, it seems there's just never enough time to kick back and relax with a "fory." Thurgood's beverage of choice.

Thurgood's wife Muriel (Loretta Devine, "Waiting to Exhale") is the calming force in his life. Sweet as can be, her feathers never get ruffled and she seems to find the good in anybody or any situation. She keeps a journal of her life because that's what her hero Oprah does. While Thurgood and Muriel have no kids of their own, they act as surrogate parents to Calvin (Crystal Scales), a bright 10-year-old who idolizes Thurgood, and his friend Juicy (Michele Morgan) whose parents are so overweight they can't fit through the doorway to their apartment. Rounding out Thurgood and Muriel's extended family in the

projects are Muriel's older sister Bebe (Jennifer Lewis, "Dreamgirls") and her Korean husband Jimmy (Min-ho Paul Chan), who have the sex drives of a couple of teenagers. Mrs. Avery (Ja'net DuBois), an uptight, 73-year-old resident who's angry even when she's happy, Sanchez (Pepe Serna), Thurgood's chess buddy who can only speak through a voice box which is constantly on the fritz, and the very aloof Haili Lady (Cheryl Francis Furlong) who sees wood as a solution to everyday problems.

As one of "The PJ's" creators and executive producers, Murphy's goal was to design a show that was edgy and insulting without putting people off. "I wanted to do the type of show where people sit around and talk about it afterward, the way they did with shows like 'All the Families,'" said Murphy. "I want people to watch 'The PJ's' and say, 'Oh, man, I've never seen anything like that.'"

Cocreators and executive producers Steve Tompkins ("In Living Color") and Larry Wilmore ("In Living Color"), "The Truth Prince of Bel Air" agreed, and seized on the series' unusual locale for its distinct voice. "The projects by definition, for people on the outside especially, can be a very dangerous place," Wilmore said. "We felt that people who live in the projects don't see the same things as people who live on the outside, so we wanted to treat it as a suspense, like it's really part of the background and you just accept it."

Tompkins continued, "One of the great liberties that the premise of the show gave us with Thurgood and Muriel is that they have an apartment and job for life. It's not about them struggling and trying to make their rent or make ends meet. So the poverty,

the real implications of poverty, never hit home."

"It's been a real hand-in-glove process with Larry and Steve," noted Will Vinton, executive producer on the series and chairman of Will Vinton Studios. "One of the most wonderful things is seeing what they've done with the characters. Both of them are really brilliant writers who have a lot of good experience in com-

edy."

Vinton looks forward to the challenge of producing a weekly stop-motion animation series, something that has never been done before. "It's going to be a challenge organizing this series, with four or more episodes in production at one time. But I'm excited about bringing these characters to life each week."

"The PJ's" is produced by Imag-

ine Television, Eddie Murphy Productions, Inc. and The Will Vinton Studios in association with Touchstone Television. Created by Eddie Murphy and Larry Wilmore & Steve Tompkins, the show is executive produced by Brian Grazer, Ron Howard, Tony Krantz, Murphy, Vinton, Wilmore, Tompkins, and Tom Turpin. Mike Mendel is producer.

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The cast of Eddie Murphy's Puss n' a new series on Fox

Pastor brings religion into the lives of prison inmates

By Susan Lortimer

MICHIGAN CITY, Ind. — Dressed in a flannel shirt and wearing black motorcycle gloves, the Rev. Joe Lanzalaco arrives for a day's work at the Indiana State Prison in Michigan City. His mission: To deliver Sunday Mass at the prison and save souls. During the week, Lanzalaco also teaches at Andrean High School in Merrillville. Lanzalaco's been going to the "big house" for about 3 years, and in that time, has helped a small prison ministry program grow from 11 to 60 inmates. "In our society, because it is a violent society, they look at these people (the inmates) as the dogs of the Earth, or the scum of society," Lanzalaco said. "I view them as outcasts of society. Jesus welcomed back outcasts."

Inmates say it's easy to relate to Lanzalaco, who fought in the Vietnam War and was a sergeant in the military police. "We know he's been through the same experiences as we have been through," inmate Steve Jordan said. Lanzalaco said prison is the first stable environment many of the inmates have ever been in, and once they have that stable life, they "think about what they did."

Waters and Mfume pay tribute to Higginbotham

Nation's longest serving active federal judge

WASHINGTON — Judge Higginbotham was one of the "true giants of the civil rights struggle," said Rep. Maxine Waters. Judge Higginbotham was a leading legal scholar, author, historian and professor in addition to his 29-year career on the federal bench. NAACP President & CEO Kweisi Mfume said, "The world has lost one of its finest, most prominent jurists of our times. His work is a reflection of both his deep passion for civil rights and the legendary pursuit of justice and equality for all Americans. As a lifetime member of the NAACP, Judge Higginbotham also served as the branch president in Philadelphia, Pa. In 1996, he was awarded the Spingarn Medal, the NAACP's highest and noblest honor of achievement. This honor illustrates how Judge Higginbotham emerged as a giant of jurisprudence during his three-decade tenure as the nation's longest serving active federal judge."

Judge Higginbotham was a close friend and a mentor to me, said Mfume. I hold him in the highest regard and his life's work will always have my most profound respect. The Judge headed up the search committee that brought me to the NAACP, insisting in his own way

that only one name be recommended to the full board for ratification or rejection. The NAACP and I will forever be indebted to Judge Higginbotham who as a lawyer, historian, legal scholar, and author is said to always remain a true American hero."

Judge Higginbotham was a brilliant educator, litigator and jurist. Our society benefited most from his strong sense of values and integrity, said Mfume. The Judge remained loyal to his values to give voice to "voiceless and forgotten people" in hopes of bringing about a change for the good of all. We send our heartfelt condolences to Judge Higginbotham's family.

NAACP Board Chairman Julian Bond said, "From his Presidency of the Philadelphia NAACP Branch in 1960 to his congressional testimony against impeachment, Leon Higginbotham set the standard for committed public service."

Judge Higginbotham was a frequent witness on Capitol Hill, said Waters. His most recent testimony was two weeks ago Tuesday, Dec. 1, 1998 in front of the House Judiciary Committee. He was often cited, Judge Higginbotham provided clear, insightful testimony. In his opening statement, he asked the Members to listen to "Luther Standing Bear, a member of the Lakota Tribe, who said, 'Thought comes before speech...'" when dealing with one of the most important constitutional issues which this committee will ever

have, to pause and to give thought before you speak and before you vote." "I am pleased to have broken protocol at the end of Judge Higginbotham's opening statement to give him a ringing round of applause. Who would have thought this would be the last time I would see this great man alive?" stated Rep. Waters.

Recently, Judge Higginbotham has stated that he felt many of the advances he had applauded over his long legal career were endangered by the cutbacks in affirmative action and reduced opportunities for black lawyers and judges. He further stated in an article in The New York Times Magazine, "I witnessed the birth of racial justice in the Supreme Court and here now, after 45 years as a lawyer, judge and law professor, I sometimes feel as if I am watching justice die."

As a lawyer, judge and advocate for justice, he remained the people's champion, always willing to volunteer where his great talents were needed, said Mfume. At the pinnacle of a busy career in private practice, he headed the search team, which brought Kweisi Mfume to the NAACP as President/CEO, and was never too busy for countless appearances on behalf of fairness and right. We will not soon see his like again. He will be sorely missed."

"I have long been a proponent of affirmative action, but I am even more resolute in my fight to ensure the continuation of affirmative action to make sure Judge A. Leon Higginbotham's legacy is never abandoned. We cannot sit idly by and allow affirmative action in the United States to be erased. Judge A. Leon Higginbotham's legacy is too important," stated Rep. Maxine Waters.

African culture celebrated with family and friends during Kwanzaa

ALLENTOWN, Pa. (AP)—Maxwell Kofi Donkor may have been born in Africa, but this year he and others like him will be celebrating his African-American culture with family and friends during the week-long celebration of Kwanzaa.

The holiday, which began Saturday, was created in 1966 in an effort to reconnect blacks with the traditions of their African ancestors. About 28 million people worldwide celebrate Kwanzaa.

Each day, the cultural holiday emphasizes a different principle: unity, or umoja in Swahili; self-determination, or kujichagulia; collective work, or ujima; cooperative economics, or ujamaa; purpose, or ni; creativity, or kumba; and faith, or imani.

Hasan Abdul-Aziz spends much of the time leading up to Kwanzaa explaining these principles to people like Donkor. Abdul-Aziz owns Nairobi Gifts in Linwood, Delaware County, which car-

ried the holiday that was created by Maulana Karenga, then a professor at the University of California at Long Beach, with the sole purpose of recalling and celebrating African-American roots, culture and tradition.

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At the Kwanzaa service in Allentown on Sunday, many people came in traditional African dress. In poets read their work and musicians play spirituals on African

Positively Black! Entertain the possibilities

By Junious Ricardo Stanton

(NNPA) — There is far more to life than the mundane hustle to survive, living off of money to someone else's standards and expectations. What about our own standards and expectations? What do you want for your life, for yourself? If failure were impossible, what would you do, be or have? If there were no external constraints, obstacles or pressures, how would your life be different? If you didn't have to worry about your parents, the children, your spouse or what other folks thought or said, what course would your life take? Have you even thought about these things? If not why not?

What makes you happy? Don't think about what society says. Don't worry about money, security or what others think. What do you want to do with your life? Let your imagination fly, entertain the possibilities! Regardless of what you have been told or the worst you think about yourself, you are a designer original, a unique and marvelous creation of divine intelligence. You were endowed with a sacred birthright upon conception! You already have it. You have fantastic abilities, gifts, talents and limitless possibilities for expressing them. The only limits are those you place upon yourself.

As you enter the 21st century, global politics and all the other things beyond your control are factors. But, they are not immovable, unchangeable or unchangeable. For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. For every thrust there is an equal and opposite resistance that must be overcome in order to succeed. These opposing forces and obstacles, test your resourcefulness, provide the resistance to strengthen your resolve and determination and ultimately allow us to actualize the divine potential we each have within us.

You are greater than you think. Entertain the possibility of your life being as wonderful as you can imagine it to be. Entertain the possibility that your limiting and self-sabotaging ideas about yourself are based upon inaccurate or insufficient data. You are greater than you know. Entertain the possibility that you have access to unlimited energy (enthusiasm), wisdom (intuition), resources (faith/faithfulness) and intelligence (subconscious omniscience). You have everything you need to succeed and make your life fabulously prosperous and fulfilling.

How will you use what I am telling you to alter your present condition and circumstances? Will you even entertain the possibility I am telling you the truth about yourself? I realize the thought of personal transformation is frightening. How will change impact my life, my finances, my relationships? Most people are more afraid of success than they are of failure. Success represents the unknown. We all have failed many times. We tend to focus on our failures, forgetting failure is about self-initiative, self-discovery, trial and error, improving one's self through one's own efforts, or learning from the experiences of others.

It is possible to overcome obstacles and overwhelming odds! There are countless examples all around us.

My definition of a successful person is one who sets a worthy goal consistent with his or her life's purpose, talents and capabilities and enthusiastically carries it through regardless of the opposition. What about those who don't accomplish all their goals, are they failures? Not if they were doing what they were called and equipped to do. Nat Turner, Sojourner Truth, Charlie Parker, Chisholm, Malcolm X and Betty Shabazz, Tupac Shakur, Betty Carter and countless others in every conceivable walk of life can hardly be called failures.

Life is not a spectator's sport. It is not meant to be lived sedentarily or vicariously. People are afraid of dying, death is perceived as annihilation. If that were true, we would all live our lives so we get the most out of every second. But, most people are just as afraid of life. I Choose to live confidently. Get involved and mix it up with gusto. Dare to make the most of it. Be willing to entertain, believe and actualize wondrous possibilities for your life!

You can contact Junious Stanton at e-mail address: JRSWriter@aol.com

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INVITATION TO BID
HOUSING AUTHORITY OF
PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY
The Housing Authority of Plainfield (PHA) will receive sealed bids for the following:
PUMPERS AND HEATING SUPPLIES
ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 1999 AT 12:00 AM

All bid packages shall clearly indicate the specific application bid title and will be addressed and mailed on the above date by the Housing Authority of Plainfield, 510 East Front Street, Plainfield, NJ 07060 at which time and place the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bid Specifications for the above are available for pick up at the Main Office of the PHA at the said address. Telephone: (908) 758-6335.

Bid Bonds and Performance Bonds are not required for these bids. Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of P.L. 1975 C-127 Minority Business Enterprises (MBE) will be offered full opportunity to bid and will not be subjected to discrimination on the basis of race, color, gender or national origin in consideration of an award.

The PHA reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any informalities thereto.

The PHA reserves the right to reject any partial bids, and to award all or a portion of the award to one or more responsible bidders. No bid shall be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days subsequent to the opening of bids without the consent of the PHA.

THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF PLAINFIELD
Carolyn Reese
Executive Director
\$81.90

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HOUSING AUTHORITY OF
PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY
The Housing Authority of Plainfield (PHA) will receive sealed bids for the following:
PAINT & ASSOCIATED SUPPLIES
ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 1999 AT 11:00 AM

All bid packages shall clearly indicate the specific application bid title and will be addressed and mailed on the above date by the Housing Authority of Plainfield, 510 East Front Street, Plainfield, NJ 07060 at which time and place the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bid Specifications for the above are available for pick up at the Main Office of the PHA at the said address. Telephone: (908) 758-6335.

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ATLANTIC CITY, NEW JERSEY

The Casco Realdevelopment Development Authority (CRDA) is seeking proposals from qualified developers for pre-construction, construction and marketing activities associated with the development of a residential community containing approximately twenty-four (24) single family and/or town style units, to be constructed on or near North Carolina Avenue in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

If designated as Qualified Developer, your firm will be available from the CRDA offices beginning Wednesday, January 6, 1999 at 10:00 a.m. at the office of CRDA. Copies of the Request For Proposals will be available from the CRDA office beginning Wednesday, January 6, 1999. Respondents are required to attend a mandatory pre-bid meeting to be held on Friday, January 8, 1999 at 10:00 A.M. at the office of CRDA.

Proposals must be received by the CRDA by 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 27, 1999. No sealed proposals will be accepted.

Questions are to be directed to:
Edward C. Enhauss, Director of Housing Development
Casco Realdevelopment Development Authority
1014 Atlantic Avenue
Atlantic City, NJ 08401
(609) 347-0500
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If designated as Qualified Developer, your firm will be available from the CRDA offices beginning Wednesday, January 6, 1999 at 11:00 a.m. at the office of CRDA. Copies of the Request For Proposals will be available from the CRDA office beginning Wednesday, January 6, 1999. Respondents are required to attend a mandatory pre-bid meeting to be held on Friday, January 8, 1999 at 11:00 a.m. at the office of CRDA.

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The United Methodist Homes of New Jersey has an opening for an 30 hr/wk secretary at Plainfield. The successful candidate will have one year prior office experience including word processing. Responsibilities will include assembling forms, typing reports, correspondence etc., filing, answering phones, etc.

Please send resume & salary requirements to: Director of Human Resources, UMH-NJ, P.O. Box 0667, Neptune, NJ 07754-0667, EOE

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TOWNSHIP OF CLARK
NEW JERSEY

Police Officer - Township of Clark is seeking applicants for the position of Police Officer. Starting salary is \$23,000 per year. Applicants must be at least 18 years old as of January 26, 1999, citizens of the United States, and possess a high school diploma or equivalent. Also be a high school or vocational high school graduate or possess an approved High School Equivalent Certification. Applications may be obtained Monday through Friday between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. at the Office of the Business Administrator, 430 Westfield Avenue, Clark, NJ 07066. All completed applications must be filed directly with the New Jersey Department of Personnel on or before January 26, 1999. Clark is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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We have an opening for a live-in superintendent for our new HUD facility (Covenant Manor) in Plainfield, NJ. The successful building superintendent will be responsible for custodial tasks, maintaining the building environment in a sanitary and orderly condition, conducting a preventive maintenance program, etc. She/he will have at least two years' experience in building maintenance, ability to work independently, problem solve, etc.

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Police Officer - Township of Clark is seeking applicants for the position of Police Officer. Starting salary is \$23,000 per year. Applicants must be at least 18 years old as of January 26, 1999, citizens of the United States, and possess a high school diploma or equivalent. Also be a high school or vocational high school graduate or possess an approved High School Equivalent Certification. Applications may be obtained Monday through Friday between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. at the Office of the Business Administrator, 430 Westfield Avenue, Clark, NJ 07066. All completed applications must be filed directly with the New Jersey Department of Personnel on or before January 26, 1999. Clark is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

SUPERINTENDENT

We have an opening for a live-in superintendent for our new HUD facility (Covenant Manor) in Plainfield, NJ. The successful building superintendent will be responsible for custodial tasks, maintaining the building environment in a sanitary and orderly condition, conducting a preventive maintenance program, etc. She/he will have at least two years' experience in building maintenance, ability to work independently, problem solve, etc.

Please send resume and salary requirements to: Director of Human Resources, UMH-NJ, 3311 Highway 34, Neptune, NJ 07753. EOE

Deadline for publication of legals and classifieds is the Thursday before the Wednesday of publication.

HELP WANTED

Distributors needed for weekly newspaper. Must have a reliable car for the following areas:

Asbury Park	Montclair
East Orange	Neptune
Elizabeth	New Brunswick
Englewood	Orange
Hackensack	Paterson
Irvington	Piscataway
Jersey City	Plainfield
Linden	Red Bank
Long Branch	Roselle
Metro Newark	Somers

For more information:
Call City News, Circulation Department
at (908) 754-3400

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

PLAINFIELD RESIDENTS

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

CONTRACTORS WILL BE LOOKING FOR TRADESPEOPLE FOR THE CONSTRUCTIONS PROJECTS AT:

- WASHINGTON SCHOOL
- EVERGREEN SCHOOL
- BARLOW SCHOOL
- PLAINFIELD HIGH SCHOOL
- CLINTON SCHOOL

LABORERS, MASONS, CARPENTERS AND MECHANICAL TRADES WILL BE REQUIRED

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED PLEASE MAIL AN APPLICATION TO:

PLAINFIELD PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES
SUITE 1173
2560 ROUTE 22 EAST
SCOTCH PLAINS, NJ 07076

INCLUDE: NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, TRADE AND EXPERIENCE

Local Briefs

Learn to teach others, become a "Literacy Volunteer of America"

PLAINFIELD—Volunteers interested in helping adults learn to read may sign up for training at the Plainfield Public Library.

The Literacy Volunteers of America-Plainfield affiliate will have free training for volunteers to teach adults to read. The training will run from 6-9 p.m. on Mondays at the library. Information on Math tutoring classes and Conversational English classes will also be available.

Many people express an interest in helping others to read, but hesitate because they feel they do not have the skills needed. Our sessions are designed to teach people step-by-step methods for teaching reading. Once a volunteer has completed the training, they will become certified and matched with a student.

Science Scholarships Available for Minority Students

WASHINGTON—Minority college and university students who plan to major in chemistry, biochemistry, chemical engineering or related fields are encouraged to apply for scholarships from the American Chemical Society, the world's largest scientific society.

Under the Society's Minority Scholarship program, one-year-only scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic achievement and financial need, for amounts up to \$2,500. Since the program's inception in 1980, more than 600 students have received scholarships.

The program is designed to encourage African-American, Hispanic and American Indian students to pursue college degrees and careers in the chemical sciences. In addition, the scholarship program aims to build awareness of the value and rewards associated with careers in science and to assist students in acquiring the skills and credentials needed for success in these fields.

The deadline for applying for the 1999-2000 academic year scholarship is February 15, 1999. Applicants may be contacted at the American Chemical Society Web site at <http://www.acs.org/pdfs/minority/aes2.htm>, or call toll-free 800-527-4558, Ext. 6280, or via e-mail to scholars@acs.org.

Hundreds of scholarships available for college tuition

ILLINOIS—A conservative estimate of college costs for a full-time student runs from \$10,000-\$50,000, high cost colleges cost from \$40,000-\$100,000. Most parents and students think that scholarships are only for the students with excellent grades, low-income families, or the athletically inclined. A small example of the numerous scholarships available to students include: Hardscaping Scholarships, Members of a Church Scholarships, Scholarships for "C" Students, Veteran Children's Scholarships, Scholarships for Minorities and much more, much more.

The U.S. Commission for Scholarships Assistance - College Board is such an organization and supplies the public with over 700 different private scholarship sources. For information on obtaining these scholarship lists, send a self-addressed, stamped, business size, #10, envelope to: The U.S. Commission for Scholarships Assistance, P.O. Box 668, O'Fallon, IL 62289.

Stressed out? Relax, just write your blues away

WESTFIELD—Michelle Bernstein of Cranford will present Write Away Stress At Women for Women of Union County, 455 E. Broad Street, Westfield, Community Room on Jan. 11 from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Designed by Bernstein this non-workshop offers quick and easy, non-threatening writing exercises to help you work through and alleviate stress. "So people think of writing as a successful activity. Journal writing and personal writing are designed to be very non-threatening."

It helps you safely release tension, frustration and anger, solve problems and work through issues, make decisions and learn to write continuously and with joy," explained Bernstein.

Bernstein, an artist and certified journal director, is on the faculty of The New Jersey Center for Visual Arts. Admission is free. For further information, call Women For Women, (908) 223-5787.

NEWARK—On Dec. 21, Newark police illegally forced South Ward residents Brenda Robertson and her husband from their home at 51, James Place. Police officer L. Oyola and his partner forced the couple out of their house without warrant of eviction or other complaint of any kind. They were acting at the direction of real estate broker Jeffrey C. Louis of Englewood Cliffs, based on his stated intention to buy the property.

The police officers broke a lock on the door to get in. They confiscated two dogs belonging to the occupants, which had been kept for purposes of protection. They failed to board up the property, leaving the contents vulnerable to entry and theft.

Louis and other NYPD officers had been at the house on December 12. At that time Sgt. Marshall of the NYPD Fifth Precinct told Louis that he had to have proof of ownership and proper court-issued notice of eviction. Further, the NYPD has no jurisdiction in cases of eviction, which are handled by the Sheriff's Office. On Dec. 21, however, Officer Oyola told a supporter of the residents that no warrant or legal authorization was necessary, only the determination of police officers acting at the will of Louis, who admitted that he did not own the property.

Brenda Robertson has been living at that address since 1994, when she and her late husband, Alfonso Grunsky, negotiated an occupancy agreement with the owners at the time. They were forced out onto the streets in June of 1996 by the City of Newark with no procedural basis.

Grunsky was arrested on a pretext of outstanding bench warrants dated back to 1986 in order to force the couple to leave. A subsequent court hearing established that they were legally resident at the address and that the city had no basis to act against them. Grunsky, 75, became so fearful due to that acts committed against him that he never returned to the house and died homeless, in Nov. of 1996. Robertson later returned, and remained earlier this year.

Robertson states that she does not want to go through months of living on the street again, but she has been beaten by the police twice before and is afraid to return to the house.

"The property has been sold to a bank because of a default on taxes," says Newark school teacher Ethel Sykes, a friend and supporter of Robertson. "Brenda tried to negotiate a sale settlement with the city but all they ever did was try to get her out. Homelessness is rising to all-time highs in Newark but all the city seems to want to do in cases of tax problems is to see people put into legal limbo and deal with real estate speculators. There is a lot of new development going on, and it's people like Brenda who lose out."

Under the auspices of the Urban Enterprise Zone, several projects were completed, while additional ones are pending implementation for the new year.

Among our accomplishments were the launch of the litter abatement program and the expansion of the police walking patrols in UEZ districts.

In 1999, the Center's security booth will begin operations, we will focus on the development of our industrial sector, and help facilitate the growth of the Special Improvement District.

Despite all our accomplishments, we have some serious challenges facing the Township of Irvington as we approach the new year. As you are aware, budgetary problems—resulting from a decreased tax collection rate—are threatening jobs in all municipal areas, including the departments of police and fire. Obviously, we are in a difficult position. But, I assure you that we are using all possible measures to ward off any layoffs or a tax increase.

I have been encouraged by our meetings thus far in Trenton and am looking forward to a favorable resolution in this matter.

On behalf of the Irvington Municipal Council and the entire Irvington Municipal family, I extend warm wishes to you and your family for health, happiness and prosperity in 1999.

EDUCATION—The Union County College Men's Soccer Team ended their regular season on October 31st, capturing the Garden State Championship crown for the first time ever in the history of the College. Ending the regular season with 15 wins and four losses, the team moved on to Region XIX National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) tournament play.

They ended post-season play on November 5, but not before they had chalked up an impressive five and record, finishing the year ranked 10th in the nation.

UCC players Alex Riche of and Eddie McInn, both of Elizabeth, were named to the Division III, 1998 All Region XIX First Team of the NJCAA and Riche was also named one of the top five players in Region XIX. McInn is the All Region Second Team was WCC's Ron DaSilva. All three were also named to the First Team of Division III, 1998 All Garden State Athletic Conference.

"Credit for an outstanding job goes to Coach Alex Louis, Assistant Coach Thomas Petit-Columb, and a talented and hardworking group of players," said Dean of Student Services, Wynn Phillips. Last winter both the Men's and Women's Basketball Teams from Union County College garnered the Garden State Athletic Conference championships and "How the Soccer Team has also become New Jersey champs," said Phillips.

According to him, the excellent performance of the Soccer Team shows that UCC athletic programs have really come into their own. The Union County College Boards of Trustees and Governors jointly honored the team and coaches with commendations at their Nov. 24th meeting.

NEWARK—New Jersey students break out in song to the strains of Verdi's "La Donna E Mobile" as Maestro Alfredo Silipigni, artistic director of the NJ State Opera, presents and opera symposium. The symposium took place at Arts High in Newark on December 15th. It's object was to prepare the students for a statewide academic competition: The NJ Academic Decathlon-Morris Region.

The school's auditorium was filled with music and the kind of entertainment the students would only enjoy at a prestigious concert hall. The program consisted of mostly live performances from some of the most well-known operas, such as Mozart's "The Magic Flute," Bizet's "Carmen," Rossini's "The Barber of Seville," Verdi's "Rigoletto" and "La Traviata" to Puccini's "La Boheme" and Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess" as well as video tapes.

The talented performers brought along by the Maestro to illustrate his points on general opera elements were highly gifted and much applauded by the students. They were Soprano, Leanne McGiffin, mezzo-soprano, Lori Brown Miralib, Baritone, Antonio Quidarelli and Tenor, Ronald Morris. The accomplished piano accompanist was Maestro Silipigni's lecture also included a familiarization with opera plots, as well as the background of various composers.

One of the symposium's high points was the presentation by Councilman Guy Booker's Chief of Staff, Darin Stauff, to Maestro Silipigni of a Resolution of Commendation from the Union County Municipal Council in recognition of his continuous efforts to teach and help the students of Newark as well as of all New Jersey.

Alfredo Silipigni and the New Jersey State Opera have made it a policy to involve students and teachers of Newark and other cities of New Jersey in becoming familiar with the high points of the opera. Scheduling for performance every season. This year the Maestro has chosen to bring to NJPAC the rarely performed Revolutionary opera, Andrea

Bozzelli. The opera is a story of a man who is a supporter of the revolution and is a supporter of the revolution.

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